

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of providing information, comprising:

collecting at least two data segments, wherein each data segment is collected from a media stream, and wherein each media stream emanates from a different media source; and
- 5 generating a composite media stream by joining together each of the collected data segments.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the generated composite media stream to a user.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a request for one of the media streams from the user, wherein the media stream is associated with one of the data segments; and

connecting the user to the media source that transmits the requested media stream.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein each data segment is an audio data segment.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein each data segment is comprised of both data and identification information.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the identification information comprises multimedia information.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein each data segment has a fixed time duration.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting the data segment further comprises collecting the data segment from a user-defined category of media streams.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the media stream is a live media stream.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the media stream is an archived media stream.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein collecting the data segments comprises:

for each media source,

fetching identification information about the media stream from a database;

5 using the fetched identification information to locate the media stream;

collecting the data segment from the located media stream;

affixing the identification information to the collected data segment; and

digitizing the data segment and the identification information.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein generating the composite media stream further comprises:

maintaining each digitized data segment and identification information for a fixed time duration before switching to another data segment.

13. An apparatus for providing information, comprising:

a computer; and

5 said computer having a controller that (a) collects at least two data segments, wherein each data segment is collected from a media stream, and wherein each media stream emanates from a different media source, and (b) generates a composite media stream by joining together each of the collected data segments.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the controller transmits the generated composite media stream to a user.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the controller receives a request for one of the media streams from the user, wherein the media stream is associated with one of the data segments, and the controller connects the user to the media source that transmits the requested media stream.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each data segment is an audio data segment.

17. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each data segment is comprised of both data and identification information.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the identification information comprises multimedia information.

19. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each data segment has a fixed time duration.

20. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein collecting the data segment further comprises collecting the data segment from a user-defined category of media streams.

21. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the media stream is a live media stream.

22. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the media stream is an archived media stream.

23. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

for each media source,

5 said controller collects the data segments by fetching identification information about the media stream from a database, uses the fetched identification information to locate the media stream, collects the data segment from the located media stream, and affixes the identification information to the collected data segment; and

said controller is connected to an encoder which digitizes the collected data segment and the identification information.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the controller generates the composite media stream by maintaining each digitized data segment and identification information for a fixed time duration before switching to another data segment.

25. An article of manufacture comprising a computer carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps of providing information, comprising:

5 collecting at least two data segments, wherein each data segment is collected from a media stream, and wherein each wherein each media stream emanates from a different media source; and

generating a composite media stream by joining together each of the collected data segments.

26. The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising transmitting the generated composite media stream to a user.

27. The article of manufacture of claim 25, further comprising:

receiving a request for one of the media streams from the user, wherein the media stream is associated with one of the data segments; and

connecting the user to the media source that transmits the requested media stream.

28. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein each data segment is an audio data segments.

29. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein each data segment is comprised of both data and identification information.

30. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the identification information comprises multimedia information.

31. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein each of the data segments have a fixed time duration.

32. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein collecting the data segment further comprises collecting the data segment from a user-defined category of media streams.

33. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the media stream is a live media stream.

34. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein the media stream is an archived media stream.

35. The article of manufacture of claim 25, wherein collecting the data segments comprises:

for each media source,

5 fetching identification information about the media stream from a database;

using the fetched identification information to locate the media stream;

collecting the data segment from the located media stream;

affixing the identification information to the collected data segment; and

digitizing the data segment and the identification information.

36. The article of manufacture of claim 35, wherein generating the composite media stream further comprises:

maintaining each digitized data segment and identification information for a fixed time duration before switching to another data segment.